

Factors Associated with HIV Disclosure Status Among iENGAGE Cohort of New to HIV Care Patients

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Abstract

HIV disclosure is an important behavior with implications for HIV treatment and prevention but understudied among new to HIV care patients who face unique challenges adjusting to a new diagnosis. This study evaluated the factors associated with HIV disclosure status and patterns of HIV disclosure among new to HIV care patients. A cross-sectional study was conducted evaluating the iENGAGE (integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry) cohort. Participants were enrolled in this randomized behavioral trial between December 2013 and June 2016. The primary and secondary outcomes included HIV disclosure status (Yes/No) and patterns of disclosure (Broad, Selective and Nondisclosure), respectively. Logistic and Multinomial Logistic Regression were used to evaluate the association of participant factors with HIV disclosure and patterns of HIV disclosure, respectively. Of 371 participants, the average age was 37 ± 12 years, 79.3% were males, and 62.3% were African Americans. A majority of participants (78.4%) disclosed their HIV status at baseline, 63.1% were broad disclosers and 15.2% were selective disclosers. In multivariable regression, black race, emotional support, and unmet needs predicted any HIV and broad disclosure, whereas males, emotional support, active coping, and acceptance were associated with selective disclosure. Interventions to promote early disclosure should focus on coping strategies and unmet needs, particularly among black and male people living with HIV initiating care.

Keywords: HIV disclosure, new to HIV care, coping, unmet needs, iENGAGE

Introduction

INFORMING OTHER INDIVIDUAL(S) or organization(s) about one's HIV infection status is defined as the process of HIV disclosure.¹⁻⁴ HIV disclosure is an important behavior with implications for HIV prevention strategies and health outcomes in the lives of people living with HIV (PLWH)⁵ in resource-rich and poor countries.⁶ The benefits of HIV disclosure⁷ include increased opportunities for social support,^{6,8,9} improved engagement¹⁰ and retention in HIV care,¹¹ earlier antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation,¹²⁻¹⁴ and better ART adherence.^{10,15} HIV disclosure is also associated with decreased mental illnesses.¹⁵

However, there are chances of undesirable outcomes like discrimination, rejection, and stigma.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Fear of disclosure

and anticipated social rejection has also been linked to decline in HIV testing, particularly among young African American women.¹⁹ The rates of disclosure vary considerably across resource settings.^{3,20-22} The average rate of disclosure in developed countries varies from 42% to 100%^{11,23} and is about 72% in the United States.²⁴

HIV disclosure is identified as a complex selective process²⁵ with social implications.²⁰ Prior studies on HIV disclosure vary considerably in addressing and categorizing HIV disclosure. For instance, disclosure is evaluated as disclosure to specific categories like family members, parents, friends, or sexual partners or to specific individuals like mother, father, partner or female relative.²⁶⁻²⁹ Disclosure was reported utmost to mothers³⁰ and nonfamily members^{31,32} and lowest among past or casual sex partners.²³ A study

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conducted among newly diagnosed HIV individuals in the United States showed the choice of disclosure include non-disclosure (disclosed to no one), selective/partial disclosure (disclosed to one person or group), and broad disclosure (disclosed to more than one person or group).¹⁷ This study evaluated sociodemographic factors, church attendance, and living arrangement and reported that about 13% of participants chose nondisclosure linked to black race, lower CD4 counts (<200 cells/ μ L), and living alone.¹⁷

Several factors have been associated with HIV disclosure and patterns of disclosure. Age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, marital status, education, time since HIV diagnosis, number of sexual partners, and sexual orientation have been found to correlate with HIV disclosure.^{8,28,33,34} However, results vary across studies contingent on study design, population, and outcome ascertainment.^{8,25,35-41}

The majority of prior studies on HIV disclosure focus on patients established in HIV care,^{40,42} men who have sex with men (MSM),⁴³⁻⁴⁷ injection drug users (IDU), alcohol users,⁴⁸ or women;^{13,30,49,50} few studies have focused on HIV patients who were not established in care.^{17,39,43,44,51-54} These studies were specific to populations such as ART-naïve patients,³⁹ patients initiating ART,⁵⁵ those diagnosed who had less than 1 year of HIV infection,^{51,52} which were either focused on specific populations like MSM^{43,44} or new mothers.⁵³ Also, the focus was on only a few specific factors and their relationship with HIV disclosure like condom use,⁴⁴ depression,⁴³ stress and coping during disclosure process,⁵¹ and CD4 response.⁵⁵

A study among new to HIV care patients have so far evaluated sociodemographic factors, church attendance, and living arrangement.¹⁷ The association of specific coping behaviors, supportive services needed, and HIV treatment self-efficacy with HIV disclosure remains unmapped among patients new to HIV care. Additional studies are required to identify factors associated with disclosure²³ especially among new to HIV care patients to achieve better HIV-related outcomes.¹⁷ To address these gaps, we evaluated the factors associated with HIV disclosure status and patterns of disclosure among patients new to outpatient HIV care enrolled in the iENGAGE (integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry) study (clinical trials.gov NCT01900236).

Methods

Study design and setting

We conducted a cross-sectional study evaluating the iENGAGE cohort. Participants were enrolled in this randomized behavioral trial between December 2013 and June 2016. The iENGAGE is an NIAID funded randomized controlled behavioral intervention trial evaluating the impact of a four-session counselor-delivered semitailored intervention implemented in a clinic setting (R01 AI 103661 and clinical trials.gov NCT01900236).

Patients new to outpatient HIV care were enrolled within 14 days of their initial primary HIV care provider appointment at four US HIV clinics: the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), the Johns Hopkins University (JHU), and the University of Washington at Seattle (UW). Clinic patients were eligible for study inclusion if they were adults 18 years and older, with documented HIV infection, who

were initiating care at one of the four participating sites. Only English speaking, those not planning to move in the next 12 months and able/willing to provide informed consent patients were enrolled. Patients who received prior outpatient HIV care at any other facility or site were excluded. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals were obtained at each site for this study. Details of the iENGAGE study can be found elsewhere.⁵⁶

As a part of the iENGAGE study, participants completed a study assessment at baseline (questionnaires) and at 48 weeks (questionnaire plus blood draw). Questionnaires were completed using CASI (computer-administered self-interview) that asked questions about mental health, alcohol use, substance use, sexual risk assessment, disclosure, social support, unmet needs, coping, and stigma using standardized, validated instruments.

All data were extracted from the iENGAGE database^{56a} and Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR) Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) through electronic data queries. CNICS is a clinic-based cohort of HIV-infected patients across eight US HIV clinics and collects comprehensive clinical data using electronic medical records and other established sources at each clinic.⁵⁷

Participant cohort

Of the 941 patients screened, 372 new to HIV care participants were enrolled in the iENGAGE study across sites (Fig. 1). One participant was found to be not new to care after being randomized to the intervention arm and was withdrawn from the study due to protocol violation, resulting in a sample size of 371.

Outcomes

For the current study, the primary outcome of interest was HIV disclosure status (Yes/No) and the secondary outcome was patterns of HIV disclosure (nondisclosure, selective disclosure, broad disclosure). Our classification of HIV disclosure draws reference from prior study conducted by Elope et al.,¹⁷ which used the same disclosure questionnaire as implemented in the iENGAGE behavioral intervention trial.

Participants completed a three-item HIV disclosure questionnaire as part of the baseline CASI assessment. The following questions were asked to assess if participants disclosed HIV status: Q1—"Have you told anyone about your HIV status, not including your health provider?" (Responses: Yes/No/No response). If the participants responded "Yes" to Q1 they were asked two follow-up questions: Q2—"Have you told more than 1 person about your HIV status?" (Responses: Yes/No) and Q3—"Who have you told about your HIV status?" [Responses: Spouse/significant other, current sexual partner(s), past sexual partner(s), family member(s), friend(s), religious leader(s) (e.g., priest, rabbi, pastor/No response/NA—skip question)].

HIV disclosure status. HIV disclosure was defined as disclosure of HIV status to someone other than health care provider, that is, if participants responded "Yes" to Q1. For data analysis, HIV disclosure status was dichotomized as Yes/No variable.

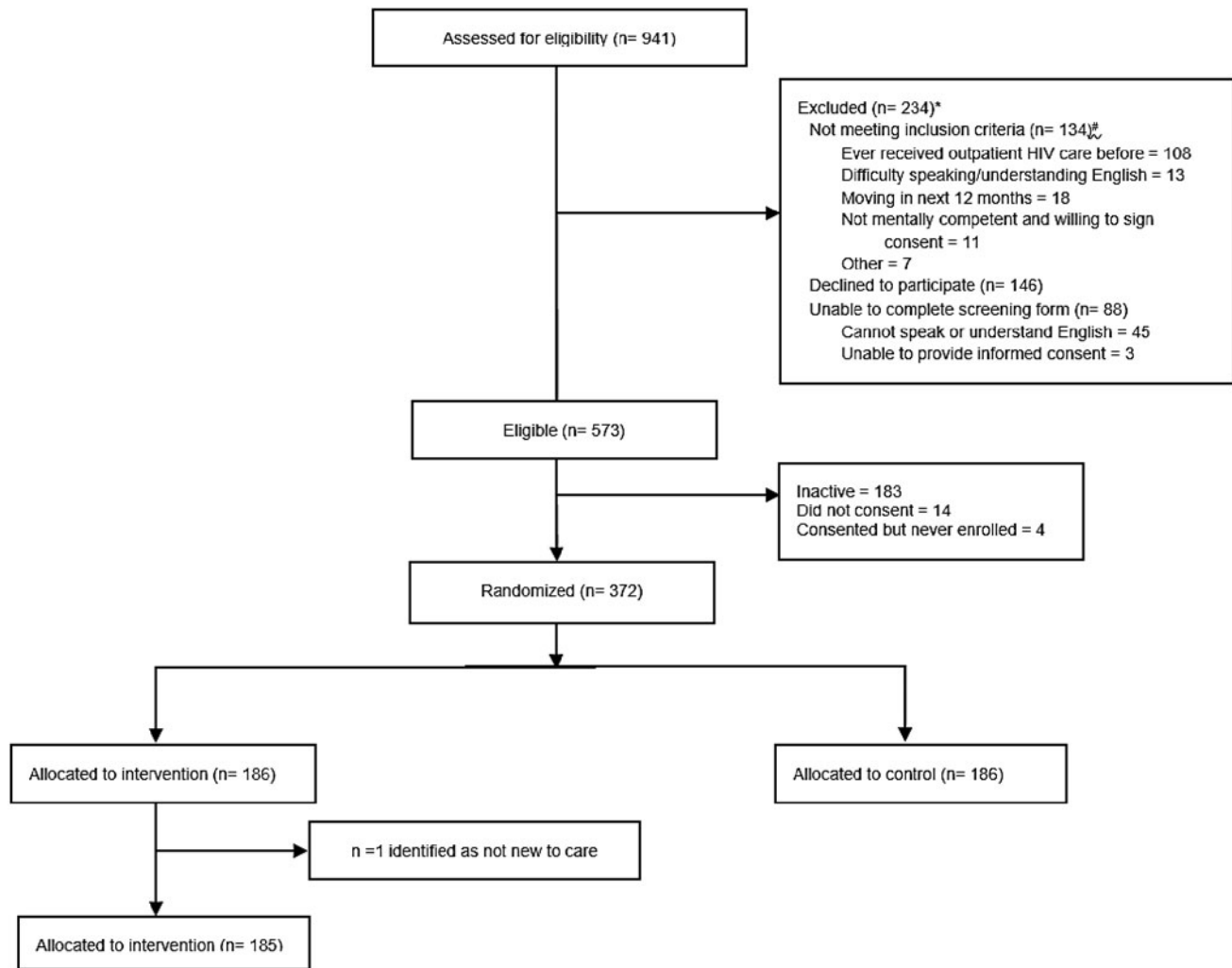


FIG. 1. Participant flow diagram for all new to care patients across four US HIV clinics enrolled in the iENGAGE study during 2013–2016. *93 of the 234 were not new to care participants. [#]There were 5 questions for participants to meet the inclusion criteria and participants can choose multiple reasons. iENGAGE, integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry.

Patterns of disclosure. Patterns of disclosure were categorized as nondisclosure, selective disclosure, and broad disclosure. Nondisclosure was defined as participants who did not disclose their HIV status to anyone other than the health care provider. Participants who responded “No” to Q1 were categorized as nondisclosers. Selective disclosure was defined as disclosed to only one group from the categorical response items. Participants who responded “No” to Q2, and did not disclose to more than one person and disclosed HIV status to only one group on Q3 [Spouse/significant other only, current sexual partner(s) only, past sexual partner(s) only, family member(s) only, friend(s) only, or religious leader(s) only] were categorized as selective disclosers. Broad disclosure was defined as disclosed to more than one group. Participants who responded “Yes” to Q2 and selected more than one group on Q3 were categorized as broad disclosers.

Patient-level factors

Sociodemographic variables. Sociodemographic variables included age (years), gender (male, female/transgender),

race [white, black, other (Native American, Asian)], and ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic) were collected at the time of screening.

ART use. ART use at enrollment (Yes/No) was obtained from the CNICS data repository for participants across sites. Participants who started ART before or on the date of enrollment were grouped as “Yes.”

Baseline viral load value. Baseline laboratory value for plasma viral load (VL) was obtained from the CNICS data repository for participants across sites. The closest value to the enrollment date was recorded (preferably –90 days, +14 days). In instances where more than 2 values were available, the highest value was selected with a conservative assumption of higher value representing worse.

Baseline CD4 count. Baseline CD4 count at the time of entering HIV care was obtained using CNICS data repository for participants across sites. The closest value to

study enrollment date was recorded (−90 days and +14 days). For data analysis CD4 count was categorized as <200 and ≥200 cells/μL of blood.

Psychosocial factors

At enrollment visit, participants completed questionnaires on psychosocial factors using CASI.⁵⁶

Depression. The eight-item Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-8) was used to assess how often the depressive symptoms bothered participants over the past 2 weeks.^{58,59} A 4-point Likert-like scale (“not at all” = 0 to “nearly every day” = 3) was used to rate each question and scores ranged from 0 to 24. A score of <10 was considered no depressive disorder, ≥10 was considered major depression, and ≥20 was considered severe major depression. For analysis purposes, we dichotomized depression as yes/no variable.

Anxiety. The five-item PHQ-5 questionnaire was used to assess if participants experienced anxiety (sudden fear or panic) in the past 4 weeks.⁶⁰ The response options were yes (score of 1)/no (score of 0). The composite score ranged from 0 to 5. Anxiety scores were categorized as no anxiety (score = 0), panic symptoms (score ≤ 4), and panic syndrome (score = 5). For analysis purposes, we dichotomized anxiety as yes/no variable.

Social support. The four-item abbreviated Medical Outcomes Study Social Support Survey (MOS-4) was used to measure perceived social support.^{61,62} Each question measured a different type of perceived support (informational, tangible, positive social interaction, affectionate). Items were rated on a 5-point scale ranging from “none of the time” (1) to “all of the time” (5). For data analysis, we used a composite score which ranges from 0 to 100.⁶³ The higher the composite score, the greater the support received.

HIV stigma. HIV stigma was measured using Bunn and Earnshaw instruments.^{64,65} The domains assessed were enacted stigma, disclosure concerns, negative self-image or internalized stigma, and concerns with public attitudes about PLWH or public stigma.⁶⁴ A 4-point Likert-like scale ranging from “strongly agree” (1) to “strongly disagree” (4) was used for rating. A composite score was calculated summing responses to all questions.⁶⁴ Anticipated stigma to family, friends, and health care providers was measured. The responses ranged from “very unlikely” (1) to “very likely” (5).⁶⁵ The higher the composite scores, the higher the stigma.^{64,65}

Coping. Participant’s coping skills were measured using an adapted brief cope questionnaire to assess 9 of the 14 domains: active coping, positive reframing, acceptance, religion, using emotional support, denial, substance use, behavioral disengagement, and self-blame. Each domain was measured using two items.^{66,67} Using emotional support, positive reframing, acceptance, and religion were perceived as adaptive coping strategies and denial, substance use, behavioral disengagement, and self-blame were perceived as

maladaptive coping strategies.⁶⁸ Items were rated on a 4-point Likert scale ranging from “not doing this at all” (1), to “doing this all the time” (4) and an average score was used for each domain.

Supportive services. Supportive services needed in the last 6 months were assessed using an instrument previously used in the CDC Retention in Care trial.⁶⁹ Supportive services included counseling, substance use treatment, housing, emergency financial assistance, employment assistance, transportation, food, groceries or meals, benefits assistance, and childcare. For analysis purposes, services were classified into three categories: counseling/substance abuse treatment; housing expenditure (housing, transportation, food, groceries, meals, and childcare); and financial assistance (financial, employment, and benefits assistance).

Quality of life. EuroQOL-5D was used to measure the five health-related quality of life: mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. Each quality was measured using a single question. Response for each question ranged from “no problems” (1) to “severe problems” (3).⁷⁰

Self-efficacy. The 12-item HIV Adherence Self-Efficacy Scale (HIV-ASES) was used to measure self-efficacy in HIV treatment adherence. This questionnaire assessed patient’s confidence to carry out important treatment-related behaviors.⁷¹ Answer choices ranged from “cannot do it at all” (0) to “certain can do it” (10). In addition, participants had option to select “refuse to answer” or “don’t know.” Composite scores were calculated and the higher the score, greater is the adherence self-efficacy.⁷¹

Sexual risk factors

Participants completed questionnaires on alcohol use, substance use, and sexual behavior at the enrollment visit and HIV transmission risk factor was obtained using the CNICS data repository.

HIV transmission risk factor. HIV transmission risk factor was recorded as either MSM, IDU, or heterosexuals. For participants who reported multiple risk factors, IDU was given the priority followed by MSM and then heterosexual in the CNICS database.

Alcohol use. The three-item Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT-C) questionnaire was used to measure alcohol consumption during the past year among participants. AUDIT-C scores were categorized as no risk [score of 0–2 for men (M), 0–1 for women (W)], low risk (score of 3 for M, 2 for W), and high risk (score of 4 for M, 3 for W).⁷² The transgender patients were treated as females for AUDIT-C scores as males transitioned to females in our participant cohort.

Substance use. The Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) was used to measure substance use (cocaine/crack, amphetamines, opiates, injection drug use).⁷³ For data analysis, substance use was categorized as Never (responded “no” to drug use), Prior

(responded “never” used drugs in the past 3 months), and Current (responded used drugs once or twice, weekly, monthly, or daily in the past 3 months).⁷⁴

Sexual behavior. HIV Risk Assessment for Positives was used to assess the number of sexual partners in the past 6 months. For data analysis, the number of sexual partners was categorized as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4–5, and ≥ 6 partners based upon the distribution of participant responses. As a smaller number of respondents reported ≥ 6 partners to be included as an individual count, these participants were collapsed into a single group.

Statistical analyses

Descriptive statistics were calculated as mean and standard deviation for continuous variables, and counts and percentages for categorical variables. Q-Q plots were used to determine normality of continuous variables.

Logistic regression was used to estimate odds ratios (ORs) and their respective 95% confidence intervals (CIs) to evaluate the association of risk factors with HIV disclosure status (Yes/No). To assess the association of risk factors with patterns of disclosure (nondisclosure, selective disclosure, broad disclosure) multinomial logistic regression was used to calculate ORs and their respective CIs.

The variables included in the adjusted models were based on the evidence from the literature, recommendations from expert clinicians, and statistical significance (<0.10) in unadjusted models. We further employed a stepwise method to generate the parsimonious models. Variables were added in the model based on their clinical significance and p -values from the unadjusted model. If the variable was not significant, it was deleted to build a parsimonious model that best explained the relationship of factors with disclosure. A two-sided p -value of <0.05 was considered significant for this analysis. All analyses were done using SAS 9.4 version.

Results

The average age of participants was 37 ± 12 years, 79.3% were males, 62.3% were African Americans, and 94.6% non-Hispanics (Table 1). Overall, 78.4% of the participants disclosed their HIV status at baseline, 63.1% were broad disclosers, and 15.2% were selective disclosers. Among participants who disclosed, 30.8% reported depression and the percentage was similar for broad disclosers (28.7%) compared with selective disclosers (34%) or nondisclosers (34.6%). However, a higher percentage of participants who disclosed their HIV status reported anxiety symptoms (33.2%) compared with participants who did not disclose (25%). Current substance use was reported by a lower percentage of participants who disclosed (16.9%) compared with participants who did not disclose (21.1%). The higher average score indicative of better active coping was reported by broad disclosers (score=6.8) compared with selective disclosers (score=7) and nondisclosers (score=6). Detectable baseline VL value (≥ 200) was reported by 93.8% and 69.3% reported no baseline ART use (Table 1). Table 2 presents the unadjusted association of factors with HIV disclosure status and patterns of disclosure.

HIV disclosure status

In the final parsimonious logistic regression model, blacks had significantly lower odds of disclosure compared with whites (OR=0.28; 95% CI=0.13–0.58). Greater use of emotional support as coping behavior was associated with significantly higher disclosure (OR=1.62; 95% CI=1.39–1.89). The odds of disclosure was double among participants receiving substance use or counseling services in the last 6 months (OR=2.07; 95% CI=1.05–4.07) compared with those who did not (Table 3). MSM individuals were more likely to disclose compared with heterosexuals as shown in the unadjusted analysis but the results were not statistically significant (Table 2) and transmission risk factor variable was not eventually added to the parsimonious model.

Patterns of disclosure

In the final parsimonious multinomial logistic regression model, blacks had significantly lower odds of broad disclosure (OR=0.23; 95% CI=0.10–0.53) compared with whites. Participants who reported use of emotional support as coping behavior (OR=1.75; 95% CI=1.45–2.12) and need for substance use treatment or counseling in the past 6 months (OR=2.47; 95% CI=1.12–5.51) had significantly higher odds of broad disclosure. Greater use of emotional support (OR=1.42; 95% CI=1.13–1.79) and active coping (OR=1.43; 95% CI=1.07–1.90) were associated with higher selective disclosure, whereas greater use of acceptance (OR=0.73; 95% CI=0.55–0.96) was associated with lower selective disclosure. Males (OR=0.28; 95% CI=0.09–0.85) were associated with lower odds of selective disclosure (Table 4).

Discussion

Early disclosure is an important HIV prevention and treatment strategy.^{75,76} Prior studies have demonstrated that in developed countries with rich resource settings, PLWH choose to disclose their HIV status to obtain psychosocial support and eliminate the stress of keeping HIV diagnosis private,^{77–79} whereas in developing countries with poor resource settings, HIV disclosure allows patients to have financial, material, and emotional support, including help with access to care and counseling.^{6,33,80–83} Yet little is known about factors associated with early HIV disclosure among new to care patients.^{17,23} In this cross-sectional study among new to HIV care patients enrolled within 14 days of their HIV primary care appointment across four US HIV clinics, we found that the odds of any HIV and broad disclosure were significantly lower in blacks ($p=0.001$) and higher among patients who reported unmet needs of substance use treatment or counseling ($p<0.004$). Greater use of emotional support was significantly associated with higher HIV and broad disclosure ($p<0.001$). The odds of selective disclosure was significantly lower among men compared with women ($p=0.02$). Greater use of emotional support ($p=0.003$) and active coping ($p=0.01$) were associated with higher selective disclosure, whereas greater use of acceptance ($p=0.02$) was associated with lower use of selective disclosure. Coping behaviors were found to be associated with all types of disclosure, and may represent a modifiable factor for behavioral interventions to enhance disclosure among new to care PLWH.

TABLE 1. BASELINE PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS BY HIV DISCLOSURE STATUS AND PATTERNS OF HIV DISCLOSURE AT THE FOUR US HIV CLINICS ENROLLED IN THE IENGAGE STUDY DURING 2013–2016 (N=371)

Variables	HIV disclosure, n=370			Disclosure patterns, n=369		
	Overall, n=371	Yes, n=290	No, n=80	Nondisclosure, n=80	Selective disclosure, n=56	Broad disclosure, n=233
Sociodemographic factors						
Age, years	37.1±12	36.8±12	38.4±12.1	38.4±12.1	37.2±13	36.6±11.7
Sex						
Male	294 (79.3)	227 (78.3)	66 (82.5)	66 (82.5)	39 (69.6)	188 (80.7)
Female	71 (19.1)	57 (19.7)	14 (17.5)	14 (17.5)	15 (26.8)	41 (17.6)
Transgender	6 (1.6)	6 (2.1)	0	0	2 (3.6)	4 (1.7)
Race						
Black	231 (62.3)	163 (56.2)	67 (83.8)	67 (83.8)	41 (73.2)	121 (52.9)
White	109 (29.4)	98 (33.8)	11 (13.8)	11 (13.8)	10 (17.9)	88 (37.8)
Other	31 (8.4)	29 (10.0)	2 (2.5)	2 (2.5)	5 (8.9)	24 (10.3)
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	20 (5.4)	19 (6.6)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.3)	3 (5.4)	16 (6.9)
Non-Hispanic	351 (94.6)	271 (93.5)	79 (98.8)	79 (98.8)	53 (94.6)	217 (92.1)
Insurance						
None	87 (23.6)	71 (24.7)	15 (19)	15 (19)	13 (23.2)	58 (25.1)
Private	107 (29.1)	87 (30.2)	20 (25.3)	20 (25.3)	19 (33.9)	68 (29.4)
Public	174 (47.3)	130 (45.1)	44 (55.7)	44 (55.7)	24 (42.9)	105 (45.5)
ART						
Yes	114 (30.7)	88 (30.3)	25 (31.3)	25 (31.3)	18 (32.1)	70 (30)
No	257 (69.3)	202 (69.7)	55 (68.8)	55 (68.8)	38 (67.9)	163 (70)
Baseline CD4 count, cells/mL of blood						
<200	85 (24.3)	65 (24.4)	20 (26.7)	20 (26.7)	10 (18.9)	55 (25.9)
200–300	83 (24.9)	60 (22.6)	23 (30.7)	23 (30.7)	11 (20.8)	49 (23.1)
≥350	174 (50.9)	141 (53.0)	32 (42.7)	32 (42.7)	32 (60.4)	108 (50.9)
Baseline VL value, copies/mL of blood						
<200	16 (4.3)	15 (5.2)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.3)	2 (3.6)	13 (5.6)
≥200	348 (93.8)	269 (92.8)	78 (97.5)	78 (97.5)	53 (94.6)	215 (92.3)
Missing	7 (1.9)	6 (2.1)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.3)	1 (1.8)	5 (2.2)
Psychosocial factors						
Depression						
No	241 (69.3)	189 (70.3)	51 (65.4)	51 (65.4)	35 (66)	154 (71.3)
Yes	107 (30.8)	80 (29.7)	27 (34.6)	27 (34.6)	18 (34)	62 (28.7)
Anxiety						
Yes	113 (31.4)	94 (33.2)	19 (25)	19 (25)	15 (27.3)	78 (34.4)
No	247 (68.6)	189 (66.8)	57 (75)	57 (75)	40 (72.7)	149 (65.6)
Social support score	57±29.1	59.4±29.3	48.5±26.9	48.5±26.9	54.8±27.6	60.5±29.6
Quality of life						
No mobility	317 (85.9)	250 (86.5)	66 (83.5)	66 (83.5)	45 (80.4)	205 (88.4)
No self-care	358 (97.3)	280 (97.2)	77 (97.5)	77 (97.5)	54 (98.2)	225 (97)
No usual activities	300 (81.1)	236 (81.7)	63 (78.8)	63 (78.8)	47 (83.9)	188 (81)
No pain	209 (57)	165 (57.7)	43 (53.8)	43 (53.8)	30 (54.6)	135 (58.7)
No depression/anxiety	163 (44.7)	129 (44.8)	35 (43.8)	35 (43.8)	27 (49.1)	101 (43.5)
Stigma						
Enacted stigma	2.2±0.7	2.2±0.7	2.3±0.7	2.3±0.7	2.4±0.8	2.1±0.7
Disclosure concerns	3.1±0.6	3.0±0.6	3.2±0.5	3.2±0.5	3.3±0.5	3.0±0.6
Internalized stigma	2.3±0.7	2.3±0.7	2.4±0.8	2.4±0.8	2.5±0.7	2.2±0.7
Public stigma	2.7±0.7	2.7±0.7	2.8±0.7	2.8±0.7	2.9±0.7	2.6±0.7
Anticipated stigma						
Family	2.7±1.4	2.7±1.4	2.8±1.3	2.8±1.3	2.9±1.4	2.6±1.4
Friends	2.8±1.3	2.7±1.2	3.1±1.3	3.1±1.3	3.0±1.3	2.6±1.2
Health care provider	1.8±0.9	1.8±0.9	1.7±0.9	1.7±0.9	2.0±1.1	1.8±0.9
Coping behavior						
Active coping	6.7±1.7	6.9±1.6	6±2.2	6±2.2	7±1.3	6.8±1.6
Denial	3.6±1.9	3.5±1.9	3.7±1.9	3.7±1.9	4±1.9	3.4±1.9
Substance use	3.1±1.8	3.2±1.9	2.9±1.5	2.9±1.5	3.0±2.0	3.2±1.8

(continued)

TABLE 1. (CONTINUED)

Variables	HIV disclosure, n = 370			Disclosure patterns, n = 369		
	Overall, n = 371	Yes, n = 290	No, n = 80	Nondisclosure, n = 80	Selective disclosure, n = 56	Broad disclosure, n = 233
Emotional support	5.2 ± 2.2	5.6 ± 2.0	3.6 ± 1.9	3.6 ± 1.9	4.7 ± 2.1	5.8 ± 2
Behavioral	2.7 ± 1.2	2.7 ± 1.3	2.6 ± 1.2	2.6 ± 1.2	2.5 ± 1.2	2.7 ± 1.3
disengagement						
Positive reframing	5.7 ± 2	5.8 ± 1.9	5.3 ± 2.0	5.3 ± 2.0	5.5 ± 2.0	5.9 ± 1.9
Acceptance	6.8 ± 1.5	6.9 ± 1.4	6.5 ± 1.8	6.5 ± 1.8	6.5 ± 1.7	7 ± 1.4
Religion	5.5 ± 2.2	5.5 ± 2.2	5.3 ± 2.3	5.3 ± 2.3	6.1 ± 2.1	5.3 ± 2.2
Self-blame	4.7 ± 2.1	4.7 ± 2.1	4.7 ± 2.2	4.7 ± 2.2	4.6 ± 2.2	4.7 ± 2.1
HIV treatment self- efficacy	9 ± 1.5	9 ± 1.5	9 ± 1.3	9 ± 1.3	8.9 ± 1.8	9 ± 1.4
Supportive services needed in last 6 months						
Financial assistance ^a	179 (49.2)	137 (48.2)	42 (52.5)	42 (52.5)	22 (40)	114 (50)
Household expenditure ^b	194 (52.9)	145 (50.5)	49 (61.3)	49 (61.3)	22 (40.7)	122 (52.6)
Substance use treatment or counseling	125 (34)	109 (37.9)	16 (20)	16 (20)	11 (19.6)	98 (42.3)
Sexual risk factors						
Transmission risk						
MSM	219 (60)	175 (61.4)	43 (54.4)	43 (54.4)	35 (62.5)	218 (60.1)
Heterosexual	117 (32.1)	87 (30.5)	30 (38)	30 (38)	20 (35.7)	66 (29)
IDU	29 (8)	23 (8.1)	6 (7.6)	6 (7.6)	1 (1.8)	22 (9.7)
Sex partners						
0	76 (20.5)	59 (20.3)	17 (21.25)	17 (21.3)	11 (19.6)	48 (20.6)
1	100 (27)	74 (25.5)	26 (32.50)	26 (32.5)	19 (33.9)	55 (23.6)
2	55 (14.8)	38 (13.1)	17 (21.25)	17 (21.3)	5 (8.9)	32 (13.7)
3	38 (10.2)	31 (10.7)	7 (8.75)	7 (8.8)	9 (16.1)	22 (9.4)
4–5	40 (10.8)	33 (11.4)	6 (7.50)	6 (7.5)	8 (14.3)	25 (10.7)
≥6	62 (16.8)	55 (19)	7 (8.75)	7 (8.8)	4 (7.1)	51 (21.9)
Alcohol use						
No risk	191 (52.3)	143 (50.2)	48 (61.5)	48 (61.5)	33 (60)	110 (48)
Low risk	46 (12.6)	35 (12.3)	11 (14.10)	11 (14.1)	7 (12.7)	28 (12.2)
High risk	127 (34.9)	107 (37.5)	19 (24.4)	19 (24.4)	15 (27.3)	91 (39.7)
Substance use						
Never	198 (55.8)	148 (53.2)	50 (65.8)	50 (65.8)	38 (69.1)	110 (49.3)
Prior	93 (26.2)	83 (29.9)	10 (13.2)	10 (13.2)	10 (18.2)	73 (32.7)
Current	64 (18)	47 (16.9)	16 (21.1)	16 (21.1)	7 (12.7)	40 (17.9)
Other factors						
Site						
UAB	153 (41.2)	111 (38.3)	42 (52.5)	42 (52.5)	21 (37.5)	90 (38.6)
UNC	76 (20.5)	62 (21.4)	13 (16.3)	13 (16.3)	13 (23.2)	49 (21)
JHU	78 (21)	63 (21.7)	15 (18.8)	15 (18.8)	17 (30.4)	45 (19.3)
UW	64 (17.3)	54 (18.6)	10 (12.5)	10 (12.5)	5 (8.9)	49 (21)
Study arm						
Control	186 (50.1)	146 (50.3)	40 (50)	40 (50)	28 (50)	118 (50.6)
Intervention	185 (49.9)	144 (49.7)	40 (50)	40 (50)	28 (50)	115 (49.4)

Numbers in the table represent *n* (%) for categorical variables and mean ± standard deviation for continuous variables.

^aFinancial assistance category includes financial, employment, benefits assistance.

^bHousehold expenditure category includes housing, transportation, food, groceries, meals, and childcare.

ART, antiretroviral therapy; IDU, injection drug users; iENGAGE, integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry; JHU, Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore; MSM, men who have sex with men; UAB, University of Alabama at Birmingham; UNC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; UW, University of Washington at Seattle; VL value, viral load value.

We observed that men were 46% less likely to broadly disclose and 72% less likely to selectively disclose their HIV status compared with females after adjusting for other variables in the analysis. Our results are consistent with prior studies among new patients seeking HIV care.^{17,52} Furthermore, the fear of being perceived as a homosexual, which may not be accepted culturally may result in nondisclosure.⁸ A study conducted among patients within 6 months of HIV

diagnosis showed that about 55.6% of males did not disclose their HIV status.⁸⁴ Buma (2015) showed that only 15% of males disclosed their HIV status before starting ART.³⁹ Our results contradict the findings of another cross-sectional study conducted among HIV patients enrolled within a year of diagnosis, where there was no difference in the odds of disclosure among males and females.⁸⁵ The difference in results is likely due to differences in populations engaged in

TABLE 2. UNADJUSTED LOGISTIC AND MULTINOMIAL LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS FOR HIV DISCLOSURE STATUS AND PATTERNS OF HIV DISCLOSURE AT THE FOUR US HIV CLINICS ENROLLED IN THE IENGAGE STUDY DURING 2013–2016

Variables	HIV disclosure (n = 370)		HIV disclosure patterns (n = 369)	
	Yes, OR (95% CI)	Selective disclosure, OR (95% CI)	Broad disclosure, OR (95% CI)	
Sociodemographic factors				
Age, years, 10 unit change	0.90 (0.73–1.10)	0.99 (0.97–1.02)	0.99 (0.97–1.01)	
Gender				
Male	0.76 (0.40–1.45)	0.49 (0.22–1.10)	0.89 (0.46–1.72)	
Female/transgender	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Race				
Black	0.28 (0.14–0.54)	0.67 (0.26–1.72)	0.23 (0.11–0.45)	
Other	1.63 (0.34–7.77)	2.75 (0.43–17.49)	1.5 (0.31–7.23)	
White	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	5.54 (0.73–42.02)	4.47 (0.45–44.14)	5.83 (0.76–44.64)	
Non-Hispanic	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Insurance				
None	1.09 (0.52–2.28)	0.91 (0.35–2.41)	1.14 (0.53–2.42)	
Public	0.68 (0.38–1.23)	0.57 (0.26–1.28)	0.70 (0.38–1.29)	
Private	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
ART				
Yes	0.96 (0.56–1.64)	1.04 (0.50–2.17)	0.95 (0.55–1.64)	
No	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Baseline CD4 count, cells/mL of blood				
200–350	0.80 (0.40–1.60)	0.96 (0.34–2.72)	0.78 (0.38–1.58)	
≥350	1.36 (0.72–2.55)	2.00 (0.81–4.93)	1.23 (0.64–2.34)	
<200	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Baseline VL value, copies/mL of blood				
≥200	0.23 (0.03–1.77)	0.34 (0.03–3.84)	0.21 (0.03–1.65)	
Missing	0.40 (0.02–7.48)	0.50 (0.01–19.56)	0.39 (0.02–7.40)	
<200	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Psychosocial factors				
Depression				
Yes	0.80 (0.47–1.37)	0.97 (0.47–2.03)	0.76 (0.44–1.32)	
No	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Anxiety				
Yes	1.49 (0.84–2.65)	1.13 (0.51–2.48)	1.57 (0.87–2.8)	
No	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Social support score	1.01 (1.00–1.02)	1.01 (1.00–1.02)	1.02 (1.01–1.02)	
Quality of life				
No mobility	1.26 (0.64–2.51)	0.81 (0.33–1.96)	1.50 (0.73–3.07)	
No self-care	0.91 (0.19–4.37)	1.40 (0.12–15.81)	0.84 (0.17–4.11)	
No usual activities	1.20 (0.65–2.22)	1.41 (0.58–3.44)	1.15 (0.62–2.16)	
No pain	1.17 (0.71–1.93)	1.03 (0.52–2.06)	1.22 (0.73–2.04)	
No depression/anxiety	1.04 (0.63–1.72)	1.24 (0.62–2.47)	0.99 (0.59–1.66)	
Stigma				
Enacted stigma	0.81 (0.56–1.17)	1.23 (0.74–2.05)	0.74 (0.50–1.08)	
Disclosure concerns	0.68 (0.44–1.07)	1.52 (0.79–2.94)	0.57 (0.36–0.92)	
Internalized stigma	0.82 (0.58–1.16)	1.33 (0.82–2.16)	0.73 (0.51–1.05)	
Public stigma	0.85 (0.58–1.23)	1.36 (0.80–2.33)	0.75 (0.51–1.11)	
Anticipated stigma				
Family	0.92 (0.76–1.10)	1.01 (0.79–1.31)	0.89 (0.74–1.08)	
Friends	0.79 (0.65–0.97)	0.98 (0.74–1.30)	0.76 (0.62–0.93)	
Health care provider	1.10 (0.83–1.45)	1.29 (0.90–1.84)	1.05 (0.79–1.39)	
Coping				
Active coping	1.29 (1.11–1.49)	1.35 (1.07–1.70)	1.27 (1.10–1.48)	
Denial	0.97 (0.84–1.11)	1.09 (0.90–1.31)	0.94 (0.81–1.08)	
Substance use	1.10 (0.95–1.29)	1.06 (0.86–1.30)	1.12 (0.95–1.32)	
Emotional support	1.62 (1.40–1.88)	1.33 (1.10–1.61)	1.71 (1.47–2.00)	
Behavioral disengagement	1.09 (0.87–1.36)	0.96 (0.69–1.34)	1.12 (0.89–1.40)	

(continued)

TABLE 2. (CONTINUED)

Variables	HIV disclosure (n=370)		HIV disclosure patterns (n=369)	
	Yes, OR (95% CI)	Selective disclosure, OR (95% CI)	Broad disclosure, OR (95% CI)	
Positive reframing	1.17 (1.02–1.33)	1.06 (0.88–1.28)	1.19 (1.04–1.36)	
Acceptance	1.19 (1.02–1.39)	1.01 (0.82–1.26)	1.25 (1.06–1.47)	
Religion	1.03 (0.92–1.16)	1.18 (1.00–1.39)	1.00 (0.89–1.12)	
Self-blame	1.00 (0.89–1.13)	0.98 (0.83–1.15)	1.00 (0.89–1.13)	
HIV treatment self-efficacy	0.99 (0.84–1.18)	0.95 (0.76–1.19)	1.01 (0.85–1.21)	
Supportive service needs in last 6 months				
Financial assistance ^a	1.03 (0.68–1.56)	0.60 (0.30–1.21)	0.91 (0.54–1.51)	
Household expenditure ^b	0.65 (0.39–1.07)	0.44 (0.22–0.88)	0.70 (0.42–1.18)	
Substance use treatment or counseling	2.44 (1.34–4.43)	0.98 (0.42–2.30)	2.93 (1.60–5.37)	
Sexual risk factors				
Transmission risk				
MSM	1.40 (0.82–2.39)	1.22 (0.59–2.51)	1.48 (0.85–2.57)	
IDU	1.32 (0.49–3.56)	0.25 (0.03–2.24)	1.67 (0.61–4.53)	
Heterosexual	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Sex partners				
1	0.82 (0.41–1.65)	1.13 (0.43–2.96)	0.75 (0.36–1.55)	
2	0.64 (0.29–1.41)	0.46 (0.13–1.59)	0.67 (0.30–1.50)	
3	1.28 (0.48–3.41)	1.99 (0.57–6.90)	1.11 (0.40–3.07)	
4–5	1.59 (0.57–4.41)	2.06 (0.56–7.58)	1.48 (0.52–4.21)	
≥6	2.26 (0.87–5.88)	0.88 (0.21–3.74)	2.58 (0.98–6.77)	
0	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Alcohol use				
Low risk	1.07 (0.50–2.27)	0.93 (0.33–2.64)	1.11 (0.51–2.41)	
High risk	1.89 (1.05–3.40)	1.15 (0.51–2.58)	2.09 (1.15–3.81)	
No risk	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Substance use				
Prior	2.80 (1.35–5.82)	1.32 (0.50–3.48)	3.31 (1.58–6.96)	
Current	0.99 (0.52–1.90)	0.58 (0.22–1.54)	1.14 (0.58–2.22)	
Never	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Other factors				
Site				
UAB	0.49 (0.23–1.05)	1.00 (0.30–3.30)	0.44 (0.20–0.95)	
UNC	0.88 (0.36–2.18)	2.00 (0.53–7.49)	0.77 (0.31–1.92)	
JHU	0.78 (0.32–1.87)	2.27 (0.63–8.14)	0.61 (0.25–1.50)	
UW	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	
Study arm				
Intervention	0.99 (0.60–1.62)	1.0 (0.51–1.98)	0.98 (0.59–1.62)	
Control	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	

^aFinancial assistance category includes financial, employment, benefits assistance.

^bHousehold expenditure category includes housing, transportation, food, groceries, meals, and childcare.

ART, antiretroviral therapy; CI, confidence interval; IDU, injection drug users; iENGAGE, integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry; JHU, Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore; MSM, men who have sex with men; OR, odds ratio; UAB, University of Alabama at Birmingham; UNC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; UW, University of Washington at Seattle; VL value, viral load value.

the study. Additionally, in the unadjusted analysis, we examined transmission risk factors and found that MSM were more likely to disclose their HIV status compared with the heterosexual group, although the results were not significant. These results may suggest that males who are MSM were more likely to disclose as suggested by another prior study.¹⁷

Black race was associated with lower odds of HIV disclosure to anyone (72%), broad (77%), and selective disclosure (34%). Results from a prior study showed that blacks were four times more likely to nondisclosure and about two times more likely to selective disclosure compared with broad disclosure.¹⁷ Blacks are more susceptible to stigma from cultural context,⁵¹ especially anticipated social rejection

being a key reason among black women¹⁹ resulting in nondisclosure. Greater racial diversity in the neighborhood was shown to be associated with lesser internalized stigma and perceived health care discrimination among women (cohort with 59% black women) with HIV infection or at risk for HIV infection in the United States.^{86,86a,87} Brief disclosure intervention (BDI) by Greene and colleagues, which includes disclosure advice and disclosure strategies, increasing patient awareness and empowerment to navigate disclosure decisions and interventions tailored to reduce stigma, including component of peer group support^{86a,88,89} may be beneficial in reducing the disparity. In addition, blacks have increased depressive symptoms from the stress

TABLE 3. ADJUSTED LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS FOR HIV DISCLOSURE STATUS AT THE FOUR US HIV CLINICS ENROLLED IN THE iENGAGE STUDY DURING 2013–2016

Variables	HIV disclosure (Yes/No) Adjusted model, n = 223	HIV disclosure (Yes/No) Parsimonious model, n = 348
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
Age	0.98 (0.94–1.02)	
Gender		
Male	0.14 (0.03–0.75)	
Female	Ref.	
Race		
Black	0.46 (0.15–1.43)	0.28 (0.13–0.58)
Other ^a	1.24 (0.15–9.96)	1.77 (0.35–9.01)
White	Ref.	Ref.
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	3.43 (0.24–49.16)	
Non-Hispanic	Ref.	
Substance use		
Prior	4.07 (1.02–16.14)	
Current	0.30 (0.07–1.33)	
Never	Ref.	
Alcohol use		
Low risk	1.18 (0.28–4.98)	
High risk	2.31 (0.79–6.72)	
No risk	Ref.	
Depression		
Yes	0.83 (0.26–2.65)	
No	Ref.	
Anxiety		
Yes	1.21 (0.41–3.53)	
No	Ref.	
Supportive services in last 6 months		
Substance use treatment or counseling	2.59 (0.91–7.40)	2.07 (1.05–4.07)
Housing expenditure ^b	0.71 (0.27–1.82)	
Baseline CD4 count, cells/mL of blood		
200–350	0.69 (0.19–2.59)	
>350	0.79 (0.24–2.66)	
<200	Ref.	
Coping behavior		
Active coping	1.37 (1.04–1.82)	
Use of emotional support	1.61 (1.22–2.11)	1.62 (1.39–1.89)
Acceptance	0.89 (0.64–1.23)	
Positive reframing	0.78 (0.57–1.07)	
Anticipated Stigma from friends	1.01 (0.67–1.50)	
Social support score	1.01 (0.99–1.02)	
Transmission risk		
MSM	1.80 (0.50–6.44)	
IDU	3.45 (0.44–27.08)	
Heterosexual	Ref.	

(continued)

TABLE 3. (CONTINUED)

Variables	HIV disclosure (Yes/No) Adjusted model, n = 223	HIV disclosure (Yes/No) Parsimonious model, n = 348
	OR (95% CI)	OR (95% CI)
Sex partners		
1	0.30 (0.06–1.40)	
2	0.38 (0.08–1.89)	
3	0.40 (0.06–2.62)	
4–5	0.68 (0.12–3.93)	
≥6	0.39 (0.07–2.27)	
0	Ref.	
Site		
UAB	0.77 (0.20–3.03)	
UNC	3.27 (0.64–16.55)	
JHU	2.07 (0.42–10.24)	
UW	Ref.	

^aOther race category includes Native American, Asian, or other.

^bHousehold expenditure category includes housing, transportation, food, groceries, meals, and childcare.

CI, confidence interval; IDU, injection drug users; iENGAGE, integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry; JHU, Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore; MSM, men who have sex with men; OR, odds ratio; UAB, University of Alabama at Birmingham; UNC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; UW, University of Washington at Seattle.

Bold values indicate statistical significance where a two-sided *p*-value was <0.05.

of the new diagnosis and adjustment disorder resulting in nondisclosure and social isolation.⁴³ Our results were in a similar direction with other studies, except for some differences in the magnitude of results, which could be attributed to diverse geographic HIV clinic data used in our study, which was the single site for the prior study.

To our knowledge, this is the first study to assess the association of need for supportive services and HIV disclosure among new to HIV care patients. The initial year of HIV care is challenging and it is important to address unmet needs in this cohort. In this study, the need for substance use treatment or counseling services was significantly associated with almost two times the odds of disclosure to anyone and broad disclosure. PLWH face significant challenges related to substance use⁹⁰ and mental health issues.^{91–93} Furthermore, among new to care patients, these challenges are exaggerated with the added stress of coming to frequent medical appointments, taking regular medications and learning the skills to navigate through the diagnosis during this initial year. Hence, they may choose to disclose to more people to gain social support and help with other necessities. Our results suggest that addressing unmet needs during initial HIV primary care appointment is important. It is possible that HIV-infected individuals in need of substance use or counseling services may be dealing with multiple health-related issues and disclosed to the social network broadly rather being selective to be able to get all the help required to address different issues. Future studies among the larger cohort of new to HIV care patients may provide more insight on the role of unmet needs and its association with the early disclosure; addressing these needs during the initial visit would

TABLE 4. ADJUSTED MULTINOMIAL LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELS FOR PATTERNS OF HIV DISCLOSURE AT THE FOUR US HIV CLINICS ENROLLED IN THE IENGAGE STUDY DURING 2013–2016

Variables	Patterns of HIV disclosure Adjusted model, n = 234		Patterns of HIV disclosure Parsimonious model, n = 300	
	Selective disclosure, OR (95% CI)	Broad disclosure, OR (95% CI)	Selective disclosure, OR (95% CI)	Broad disclosure, OR (95% CI)
Age	0.98 (0.93–1.03)	0.98 (0.95–1.02)		
Gender				
Male	0.27 (0.05–1.43)	0.39 (0.12–1.60)	0.28 (0.09–0.85)	0.54 (0.21–1.42)
Female	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Race				
Black	0.62 (0.13–3.05)	0.30 (0.10–0.94)	0.66 (0.22–2.03)	0.23 (0.10–0.53)
Other ^a	3.21 (0.26–40.19)	1.21 (0.15–10.15)	4.75 (0.67–33.61)	1.74 (0.32–9.30)
White	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	0.70 (0.02–23.16)	3.40 (0.25–46.75)		
Non-Hispanic	Ref.	Ref.		
Social support score	1.01 (0.99–1.04)	1.00 (0.98–1.02)		
Alcohol use				
Low risk	0.78 (0.13–4.72)	0.79 (0.20–3.18)		
High risk	1.16 (0.34–3.95)	1.74 (0.68–4.43)		
Supportive services needed in last 6 months				
Substance use treatment or counseling	0.48 (0.11–2.08)	2.49 (0.95–6.53)	0.58 (0.19–1.84)	2.47 (1.12–5.51)
Household expenditure ^b	0.69 (0.21–2.24)	0.92 (0.37–2.30)		
Baseline CD4 count (cells/mL of blood)				
200–350	0.64 (0.10–4.05)	0.75 (0.22–2.49)		
>350	2.92 (0.65–13.14)	0.73 (0.24–2.22)		
<200	Ref.	Ref.		
Coping				
Active coping	1.34 (0.90–1.99)	1.19 (0.91–1.55)	1.43 (1.07–1.90)	1.07 (0.88–1.32)
Use of emotional support	1.36 (0.97–1.89)	1.73 (1.34–2.23)	1.42 (1.13–1.79)	1.75 (1.45–2.12)
Behavioral disengagement	0.94 (0.32–2.76)	1.62 (0.79–3.31)		
Acceptance	0.59 (0.37–0.92)	0.80 (0.56–1.13)	0.73 (0.55–0.96)	0.95 (0.75–1.19)
Positive reframing	0.82 (0.55–1.21)	0.88 (0.66–1.18)		
Religion	1.88 (0.9–3.64)	1.01 (0.64–1.60)		
Anticipated stigma from friends	1.10 (0.57–2.12)	0.92 (0.58–1.46)		
Site				
UAB	0.41 (0.05–3.18)	0.83 (0.22–3.15)		
UNC	1.32 (0.16–11.32)	2.99 (0.63–14.15)		
JHU	0.78 (0.10–6.10)	0.90 (0.21–3.87)		
UW	Ref.	Ref.		
Stigma				
Disclosure concerns	2.10 (0.57–7.69)	0.89 (0.35–2.26)		
Negative self-image	0.97 (0.38–2.48)	0.58 (0.27–1.24)		

^aOther includes Native American, Asian, and other race.

^bHousehold expenditure category includes housing, transportation, food, groceries, meals, and childcare.

CI, confidence interval; iENGAGE, integrating ENGagement and Adherence Goals upon Entry; JHU, Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore; OR, odds ratio; UAB, University of Alabama at Birmingham; UNC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; UW, University of Washington at Seattle.

Bold values indicate statistical significance where a two-sided *p*-value was <0.05.

be beneficial and unmet needs be a focus for intervention targeted for new to HIV care patients.

Interestingly, the trends for higher use of different adaptive coping strategies were toward better disclosure. There was significant increase in disclosure to anyone, broad and selective disclosure compared with nondisclosure for increased use of active coping and emotional support in unadjusted analysis. In adjusted analysis, the results remained statistically significant for use of emotional support for all disclo-

tures and active coping for selective disclosure. It is probably because a patient actively trying to cope with the diagnosis seeks support by disclosing. We found that the higher the acceptance, the lower the disclosure. One possible explanation is participants who may have accepted their HIV diagnosis may not have felt the need to disclose their HIV status to gain support. Based on the unadjusted and adjusted results of this study, focusing on adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies may motivate newly diagnosed patients to disclose

their serostatus early and achieve better HIV-related outcomes. Use of different coping strategies may depend on the outcomes of disclosure. One prior study indicated that non-disclosure actually became a coping strategy after experiencing negative outcomes from initial disclosure.⁵¹ Nevertheless, our results are supportive of using coping strategies as a part of the intervention for early HIV disclosure for patients new to HIV to aid disclosure. Individual- and community-level interventions, including health care agencies, community-based organizations etc. to promote culturally competent practices to care and support for PLWH,⁹⁴ or adopting prior coping interventions with components of HIV informational support, seeking social support (family, friends), networking, and maintaining positive attitude after HIV diagnosis, have been reported to be effective.⁹⁵ We recommend future studies to explore the relationship of type and magnitude of each coping strategy and early HIV disclosure among new to HIV care patients. Studies evaluating patient/partner intervention models⁹⁶ with focus on adaptive coping strategies would be an interesting step forward.

Our study provides an understanding of the association of several factors with HIV disclosure status and patterns of disclosure and adds to the existing literature among new to HIV care patients. The results of our study add to the future efforts to build HIV disclosure-specific interventions for new to HIV care patients. We have a geographically diverse sample population and a geographically diverse cohort of individuals who have never received outpatient HIV care before.

We recognize limitations of this study. The cross-sectional design of this study did not allow for assessment of temporal relationship and no inferences on causality can be made. However, our associations can gauge the strength of effect and possibility of potential factors to consider. Patterns of HIV disclosure results, particularly broad disclosure, should be interpreted with context, as the disclosure questionnaire used for the iENGAGE study did not capture information on the number of individual participants disclosed to in each category which is valuable information and needs to be captured in future studies for in-depth insights. Results of the study may not be generalized beyond the geographic areas covered by the iENGAGE study, but the sites used for study implementation are representative of national estimates. Association of HIV disclosure to retention in care and VL suppression was not assessed but is an important next step, which our group is working on. Data collected during the iENGAGE study is self-reported and there is a possibility of recall bias or information bias. However, prior studies have shown that self-reported data are acceptable for capturing HIV behaviors.⁹⁷

Our study found that black race, emotional support, and unmet needs were associated with any HIV and broad disclosure, and males, emotional support, active coping, and acceptance were associated with selective disclosure. Interventions of early HIV disclosure targeted for new to HIV care patients may require a multifaceted approach and focus on coping strategies and unmet needs as intervention components. Future studies on early HIV disclosure in larger cohorts of PLWH may provide insight on evidence-based intervention recommendations for new to HIV care patients.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Ethics approval

All procedures performed involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Informed consent

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study, as approved by the local Institutional Review Boards at each study site.

Author Disclosure Statement

No competing financial interests exist.

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